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the conditions of the Union-compact remain to be performed, and the capitulation of the national independence, like the capitulation of Limerick, is misinterpreted, and perverted for the purposes of party; while the revenues of the empire are squandered abroad, and its true resources in the hearts of the whole people, are neglected and despised; while so many orders of men are inveigled by short-sighted views of private and personal interest, into an abandonment of the commonweal, and a blind approbation and support of a war, which, besides the distresses peculiar to war, presses upon all the hopes and prospects of these nations, and endangers not merely their prosperity, but their existence; in short, while the Catholics are, with bigotted obstinacy, excluded from their just share of political power, and the people at large from their constitutional controul over the Commons House of Parliament, we must continue to speak in terms of deep despondence. Our hopes from the PRINCE REGENT yet save us from despair.

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DOCUMENTS.

COUNTY OF DOWN.

At a General Meeting of the Magistrates of said County, held at Downpatrick, 22d November, 1811, pursuant to public notice—

The EARL LONDONDERRY, Governor, in the Chair.

The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

1st.—That we have reason to believe that attempts have been lately made in some districts of the County (although we

trust with very limited success) to engage the lower orders of the people in illegal associations, which may, if persisted in, fatally disturb the public peace of this County. That in pursuance of this purpose, nightly meetings have been held, illegal oaths administered, and attempts made to compel the timid to join in these associations.

2d.—That in mercy to the ignorant and deluded, who have been or may hereafter be urged to join in those associations, we deem it our duty, as Magistrates, thus early to warn them of the danger to which they will expose themselves, their families and their properties, by engaging in such practices.—We trust, that by awakening them to a just sense of that danger, whilst the mischief is yet partial and circumscribed, that they, in common with all orders of the community, may be aroused to a sense of the necessity of supporting the laws, and of repressing such dangerous attempts to disturb the public peace.

3d. That at all times solicitous by timely admonition, to prevent the commission of offences, we earnestly hope, as Magistrates, we may be saved the painful task of bringing the criminal to punishment; but it is our duty explicitly to declare to all classes and descriptions of the people, that if this our solemn warning and remonstrance is neglected, we shall feel it our bounden duty to act with promptitude and decision in bringing these offenders to justice, whom lenient measures cannot reclaim. We call upon the people of every description, laying aside all religious distinctions, and animosities, to live in harmony amongst themselves—to look up to the laws and to the magistrates for protection, and not to be deluded into the belief, that either their personal safety or welfare can be promoted, by associating themselves in any of those illegal combinations, which have, at various times, and under various pretexts, disgraced, and disturbed different parts of Ireland, but from the calamities of which this county has been peculiarly exempt. They may rely on our administering the laws with mildness, and with perfect impartiality to all orders and denominations of the community; none shall be regarded by us as object either of distrust or favour; we shall do our duty conscientiously and faithfully by all; and we call for, and confidently expect, to receive the support of every good man in our exertions to pre-

serve the public peace, and to protect the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, whom his majesty has entrusted to our care.

Signed by the different Magistrates of the County of Down.

The Earl of Londonderry having left the Chair, and the Marquis of Downshire having been requested to take the same,

Resolved—That our thanks be returned to the Earl of Londonderry for his readiness in convening this meeting, and for his very proper conduct in the chair.

DOWNSHIRE.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

LETTER FROM LORD STANHOPE, TO MAJOR CARTWRIGHT.

*Chesham House, near Seven Oaks, Kent,
July 25, 1810.*

DEAR CARTWRIGHT,

"I never was a friend to that foolish thing, which has lately been technically called '*moderate Reform*.' I was once a friend to *gradual Reform*, in order, first, to obtain that which was right *per se*; and in order, secondly, to lead to a sufficient Reform, with a fair prospect of success; and my opinion still is, that my opinion *was* right, at the time I held it. For, in the year 1783, I carried one measure through the House of Commons, and had for it, even a majority of the Lords present, in the House of Lords, where it was lost only by the *proxies*, and that, only by a majority of *two*. That was an excellent Bill '*for preventing bribery and expense in election of Members to serve in Parliament*.' A second measure, namely, a Bill '*for the better securing the rights of persons qualified to vote at county Elections*,' I carried through *both Houses*, in 1771, before the enemies of Reform felt its utility. But, upon their perceiving its full extent, that Act of Parliament was *suspended*, and thereby rendered ineffectual, previous to the first general election, and before that plan of partial Reform had been tried even in a single instance. A third measure passed the House of Commons, as suggested by me to the Member who proposed it in that House; but (what is quite unusual, and I believe then unprecedented) it was rejected in the House of Lords, on the *first* reading, in a thin House, by a few persons, who appeared quite afraid even of taking the sense of a *fuller* House upon the object of that Bill. When I was last in town,

I informed some of the modern '*moderate reformers*,' that I was against this weak attempt at '*moderate Reform*,' as they are latterly pleased to term it; and that I conceived that *very gradual Reform* would be far too slow for the critical situation of affairs. I do not know, whether they were, or were not, all of them over well pleased with my frankness and sincerity. Let any man of common sense but look at the state of things at present. No sufficient *nautical* measures taken against invasion. No sufficient *constitutionally military* measures to meet. Nothing done to prevent famine, in the case of a short harvest; my plan for public granaries, and for encouragement to the farmers, &c. having been rejected. Nothing done upon that very important subject of providing means of *making payments*, either public or private, in the case of alarm, when *money* will be buried and *paper* refused. Nothing done to give satisfaction to the friends of liberty, political, civil, or religious. Nothing done of importance about *Ireland*, except the burdening of that country with fresh taxes. New constitutional jealousies started, when the reverse is indispensable; and that, not merely by Ministerialists, but also by persons in opposition. What a state of things!—Good Heavens! I went up to town to attend and to oppose Lord Grey's motion about *privileges*, by moving an amendment to it.

I did so, to prove that I was the *same* man of principle I ever was, but without the smallest hope of doing any good.—In fact, I did not find scarce half a dozen in the House of my opinion; nor do I know that *one-half* of that handful would support me, on any other subject. The people are yet, as it were, asleep. Nor do I know, that you and your friends will wake them, till events shall; events that the very stones of the streets will feel. May God grant, that it may then *not be too late* to save the country, and the freedom of its ancient constitution. I can make ships, printing presses, stereotype plates, and telescopes; but I cannot *make men* who will see and feel as I do. I have laboured hard in the vineyard for six-and-thirty years, but to no effect. Past experience will regulate my future conduct. I do not think that I shall attend any county or other meetings, till I conceive that *I see day light* of some kind, and which I freely and